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The hon. Sir NORMAN MARJORIBANKS:—"The question is whether the Ministers propose to give evidence before the Commission. They have not said so or noted so, and there is nothing on record."

Mr. S. SATYAMURTI:—"May I know whether the hon. the Ministers are free, under the conventions and the rules under which this Government function in this province, to give evidence without reference to the Government as a whole?"

The hon. Sir NORMAN MARJORIBANKS:—"That is a constitutional question, and I should like to have notice."

Mr. S. SATYAMURTI:—"May I know if, as a body, the Government makes up its mind to give evidence or not to give evidence, whether the hon. the Ministers are bound by that decision or whether they are free to act?"

The hon. the PRESIDENT:—"That is asking for an opinion."

Mr. S. SATYAMURTI:—"Then I will ask for a fact. May I know if in a joint consideration to which the hon. the Revenue Member referred in the answer to a previous supplementary question, the hon. the Ministers have communicated at any time any views or intentions about their giving evidence before the Simon Commission?"

The hon. Sir NORMAN MARJORIBANKS:—"The question is answered in 757-B. They have not said so."

Special allowances for members of the committee elected by the Council for conferring with the Statutory Commission.

* 757-C Q.—Mr. D. NARAYANA RAJU: Will the hon. the Member for Revenue be pleased to state—

(a) whether the members elected by the Council for conferring with the Indian Statutory Commission have asked for the grant of any special allowances; and, if so, whether their request has been granted by the Government; and

(b) whether the Government will be pleased to place on the table of the House the correspondence on the subject?

A.—(a) & (b) The appended[a] extract from a letter written by the Chief Secretary to Government to the Secretary of the Committee gives the information asked for.

Mr. J. A. SALDANHA:—"May I refer to the last sentence of the appendix? It says: 'The Committee, moreover, is one appointed by the Legislative Council and it appears to the Government appropriate that the allowances granted to its Chairman and Members should be those ordinarily admissible to the M.L.Cs. when employed on the work of committees so appointed.' May I know why the words 'it appears' occur there? Is it the opinion of the Government?"

The hon Sir NORMAN MARJORIBANKS:—"That is the natural meaning of the words."

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a Printed as Appendix I at page 361 infra.

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Mr. J. A. Saldanha :—" Have the Government consulted the Accountant-General or their legal advisers whether this allowance could be paid out of the grant appropriated for travelling allowance of members of committees of this Council ? "

The hon. Sir Norman Marjoribanks :—" I am not aware of any legal disability, Sir."

Mr. C. V. Venkataramana Ayyangar :—" May I know if the Madras Committee has sent any further communications on this matter, after the Government's letter ? "

The hon. Sir Norman Marjoribanks :—" No, Sir."

Mr. S. Satyamurti :—" May I know, Sir, if the Chairman and Members of the Committee have given an ultimatum to the Government that unless they are given this extra allowance, they will non-co-operate with the Simon Commission ? "

The hon. Sir Norman Marjoribanks :—" I am not aware of it, Sir."

Mr. D. Narayana Raju :—" May I know if the Government have considered the need for awarding some solatium to the Members for the displeasure they are incurring in the country ? "

The hon Sir. Norman Marjoribanks :—" I do not admit the implication contained in the question."

Mr. D. Narayana Raju :—" May I know on what basis they have asked for special emoluments ? Is it to keep up their dignity as Members of the Committee or as compensation for the displeasure they are incurring in the country or for the great work they have undertaken ? "

The hon. Sir Norman Marjoribanks :—" It appears they referred to the Indian Statutory Committee and I suppose they were going on that analogy."

Mr. G. Harisarvottama Rao :—" May I know if the Government are aware or have any idea that the Committee has asked for this increase on the ground of an honorarium for the excellent approbation they have got on the floor of this House ? "

The hon. Sir Norman Marjoribanks : —" That is possible, Sir."

Mr. C. V. Venkataramana Ayyangar :—" May I know if a covering letter was received along with this resolution from the Secretary or the President of the Committee ? "

The hon. Sir Norman Marjoribanks :—" It was forwarded, Sir."

Mr. C. V. Venkataramana Ayyangar :—" Simply forwarded, or were there any amplifications ? "

The hon. Sir Norman Marjoribanks :—" No, Sir."

Government Press

Educational qualifications of Mr. Magimadas, Acting Assistant Superintendent, Government Press.

*758-A Q.—Dr. B. S. Mallayya : Will the hon. the Home Member be pleased to state—

(*a*) (i) whether one J. Magimadas, a reader in the Government Press, was appointed to act as Assistant Superintendent on Rs. 250 ;